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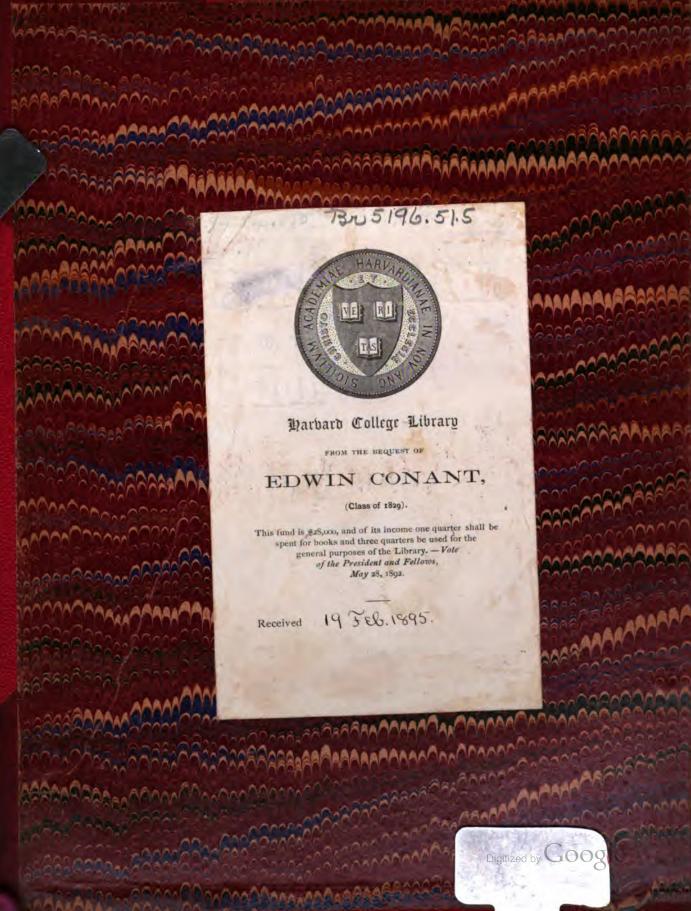
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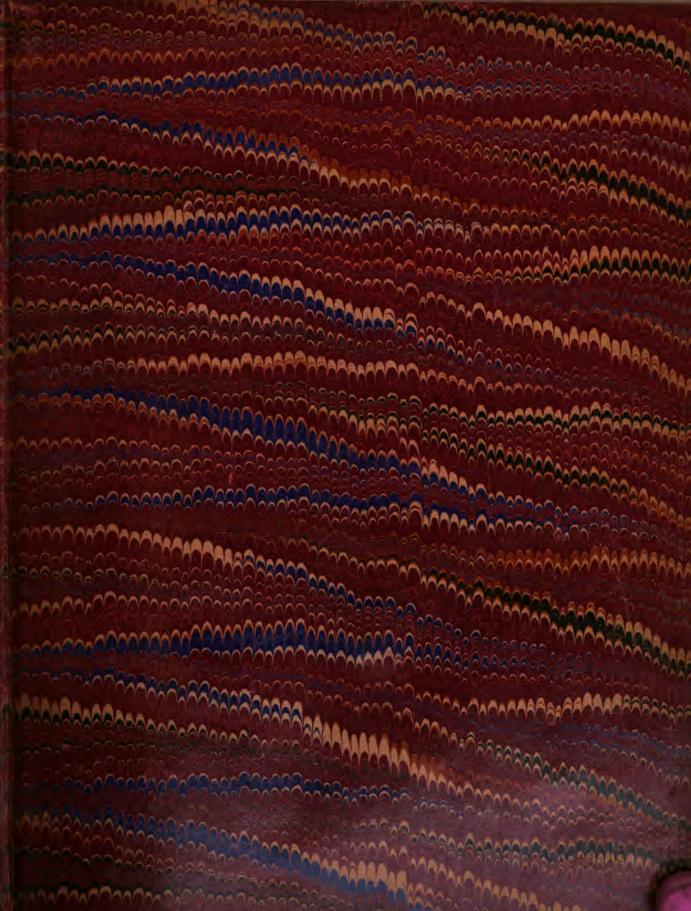
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1

GREAT DOMESDAY BOOK OF IPSWICH;

LIBER SEXTUS:

With an Introduction to the Entire Volume,

FULL NOTES AND A COMMENTARY;
WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EARLIEB
LITTLE DOMESDAY BOOKS
BELONGING TO THE SAME TOWN,

er the Rev. C. H. EVELYN WHITE,

IPSWICH,

Honorary Secretary of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History, Editor of the Society's 'Proceedings,' and of "The East Anglian Notes and Queries," &c.

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THE GREAT DOMESDAY BOOK OF IPSWICH,

COMPILED BY RICHARD PERCYVALE.

12 HENRY VIII.

LIBER SEXTUS.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ENTIRE VOLUME AND THE EARLIER
DOMESDAY BOOKS BELONGING TO THE TOWN.

The ancient Borough of Ipswich, besides possessing a rather remarkable and extensive collection of Rolls, Charters and Letters Patent, Deeds, both private and municipal, as well as other miscellaneous writings of varied worth, is fortunate in having among the town Archives, several books, both written and printed, which are of special value and importance, alike to the antiquary and historian, and of no small account in the eyes of the intelligent burgess, who rightly regards each as a link in the silver chain that connects the present with the past. The interest which attaches to these volumes may be said mainly to centre in those, known respectively as the 'New' or 'Great' Domesday and the 'Old' or 'Little' Domesday Book, concerning which, and especially the former, I desire to draw attention.

The ancient laws and customs of Ipswich, dating from a very early period of the town's constitution and history, were originally contained in certain Rolls, once the cherished inheritance of our forefathers, but which, alas! were in the 56th year of the reign of Henry III.

abstracted from the "Comyn Hutche or Cheste" and, regardless of the grievous injury inflicted thereby upon the town, purloined by a certain notorious Town Clerk ("un faus comun Clerk") one, John le Blake, of whom, and the precious Rolls, it is almost needless to say, nothing further was heard. 'Men of the East' are proverbially 'wise,' so that it is no cause for surprise, that we find the Ipswich townsfolk soon after this occurence, deputing to twenty-four of their number, the task of compiling afresh an account of the ancient usages of the Borough, of the extreme importance of which they thus appear to have been fully sensible. These revived customs, ordinances and regulations, were embodied in the volume since known as the "Domesday des Leyes e des usages de Gippeswiz," but more commonly as the 'Little Domesday Book,' and appears to have been completed in the 19th year of Edward I. This work, however, seems very soon after to have disappeared, but not before two official copies had been made sometime during the reign of Edward II., and these were a little later on, increased to the number of three.

Of the fourteenth century transcripts, one is an octavo volume, containing within its leather covers, ninety-one leaves of vellum, upon fifty of which, appear in a neat hand, a copy in French of the former Domesday Book, while sundry other matters, of a later period,

occupy the remaining forty one skins.

The other transcript, or duplicate copy, is apparently the work of the same penman, and also contains on the leaves not used for the original purpose of the book,

much interesting matter of a subsequent date.

A third transcript of a similar character, and executed probably about the same time as the two copies just mentioned, but every way inferior to them, found its way some twenty-five years ago into the hands of the British Museum authorities,* under circumstances

^{* &}quot;Le Domesday des Leyes et Usages de Gippewiz 19 Edw: I. Br: Mus: CLVII. B. Add MSS. 25,011.

detailed at length in the Report recently made by Mr. J. C. Jeaffreson for the Historical MSS. Commission (Appendix ix, p. 242). Beside the French text, this copy has an English translation, and is easily accessible to the student in an admirable edition published in the Roll series,* which has an able introduction, pointing out especially the importance of the Ipswich Domesday as a unique volume among a rare class of documents: valuable foot notes, explanatory of obsolete terms, &c., are to be found on nearly every page.

In addition to this volume, a fifteenth century copy of this Domesday, was, at the same time as the other transcript mentioned, purchased by the Trustees of the

British Museum, in whose custody it remains.

This latter volume was in all probability the precursor of the 'new' or 'Great' Domesday Book, so called from having been compiled in the 12th year of Henry VIII, and owing also to its great size, compared with the earlier transcripts of the former Domesday. Except only in point of priority of date, the Great Domesday Book of Richard Percyvale, (formerly one of the Portmen of the Town,) is a volume of far greater interest and importance than the earlier volumes to which allusion has been made, and supplied, what must have been a long felt want, in giving (to use the words of the compiler) "as many of the old grants, liberties, ordinances, laws and good constitutions," as he could find "prescription or good matter of record for, with divers and sundry other matters right necessary to be had and known in the town and borough of Ipswich." (see Prologue.)

The Great Domesday Book is a finely written thick folio, bound in old embossed calf, measuring 16 in. by 12 in. and containing 271 leaves of vellum, the whole being divided into seven Books (preceded by the prologue)

which are as follows:—

LIBER PRIMUS, contains the Charter granted in the first year of the reign of King John, followed by records

The Black Book of the Admiralty, Appendix, Part ii, vol. ii, 1873. Edited by Sir Travers Twiss, Q.O., D.C.L.

of succeeding grants, &c., as far as 13 Edward I. This book is mainly taken up with matter contained in the Little Domesday Volume and consists of twenty-one vellum leaves, and one leaf blank. (It is preceded by five blank leaves, upon the back of one of these a memorandum is written.)

LIBER SECUNDUS, has an English rendering of the eighty-three chapters contained in the earlier volume, where it is given in French; to these ordinances and regulations affecting the municipal life, twenty others of a latter date are added in Latin, the most remarkable being those for the proper ordering of the religious observances connected with the famous Merchants Guild of Corpus Christi. This book occupies no less than fifty-eight leaves: there are beside seventeen that are plain.

LIBER TERTIUS, is taken up with

(1) An Ordinance for the regulation of the beremen or Wynedraggers (porters) as laid down in the Little Domesday.

(2) The Toune Custumes belonging to the Kynge's

fee-ferme.

(3) The Assise of weying of brede after the Statue of Wynchester.

(4) The Assyse for bruers.

This book contains fifteen leaves, with one left plain at the end.

LIBER QUARTUS, has in Latin "the constitucion for Corpus Christi procession and in what maner the Maundy shulde yerely be kepte with other dyuers remembraunces requesyte to be had in memory;" followed by an order "how euery occupacion or craftesmen shuld ordre themselffes in their goyng * * in the same procession." There are also between 30 and 40 other distinct entries consisting of copies of Indentures, acquittances, enrolments, grants, extracts, memorandums, &c., &c., the whole occupying seventy-eight leaves, 18 or 19 of which are written in a late (bad) hand (temp. Eliz: and Ph: and

Mary) and two blank leaves. Three leaves that follow, which may also be said to form part of Book iv, contain in several different hands, various oaths added at a subsequent time to those which appear in Book v. so as to meet the requirements of after legislation, viz.

- (a) The Bailiffs (as to Impanelling Juries.)
- (b) Justices of the Peace.
- (c) Searchers of Leather.
- (d) Sealer of Leather.
- (e) Fleshwardens.
- (f) Wardens of the Foundation (29 Sep. 1623)
- (g) Town Treasurer.
- (h) Clavigers.

The fourth book is thus by far the largest portion of the several divisions marked in the volume, and has the widest range of subjects.

LIBER QUINTUS, is by reason of its contents, that part of the book which in former days was most frequently called into requisition, and from it, the markets &c., were periodically proclaimed. It consists of twenty leaves, which bear marks of long continued usage, at the end of which are two blank leaves, and contains "alle the othes that every bayliff, portman, burgeys and alle other officers be wonte to swere when they be admyttyd into ther romys and offices with other dyuerse articules that the bayliffes of this towne be bounde to se observed and kepte and to proclayme them every yere in dyuers places of this Town with the Libertyes of this town by water and by land."

LIBER SEXTUS, may claim to be regarded as a book possessing more general interest than the others. The greater part of the contents of this portion, is taken up with matters relating, not to Ipswich only, but to the whole County of Suffolk i.e. (1) Taxes paid by every town in Suffolk to the King's Grace. (2) List of Knights' Fees of the Honors of Lancaster and Leicester in the County of Suffolk. It contains also, (a) a curious heraldic

description of the arms borne by divers Sovereigns; (b) a quaint memorandum of ancient lineal measurements, and what I have elsewere spoken of as, (c) a "Rhyming Chronicle of the Kings of England," (William I. to Edward IV.), and attributed to Lydgate, the Monk-poet of Bury,* which brings the sixth book to a conclusion. There are in this part, twenty leaves, three of which remain blank.

LIBER SEPTIMUS, is the last book: it contains the Charter confirmed to the town in the 3rd year of Henry VIII. with another Charter relating to the Admiralty, and sundry other matters, written upon nineteen leaves, and there are beside, nine leaves at the end left plain.

The character and contents of the Great Doomsday Book, as well as the object and design of its predecessors, may, it is thought from this description, be deemed of sufficient interest to lead many to desire a further and fuller acquaintance with the volume, such as a study of

the book in its entirety can alone give.

It will be seen that the Great Domesday Book, is in point of fact, what in process of time the earlier Domesday volumes were inclined to become, a veritable olla podrida, for, if not exactly a receptacle for "odds and ends," many of the entries there made, cannot but be regarded as altogether foreign to the original purpose for which such a book was designed. We have, however, abundant cause for satisfaction, that the Great Domesday Book, is in respect of its varied contents, just what it is; the antiquary especially will be sure to find pleasure in the preservation of such quaint things as some which are here recorded, and which might otherwise have disappeared altogether. This feature is prominent in, and indeed may be said in a great measure to be confined Beside all this the inhabitant of to, the sixth book. Suffolk may find therein matters of some importance to the whole County, which perhaps point to a position, more or less one of pre-eminence, which may have been

^{*} East Anglian, New Ser., vol. I., pp. 88, 41.

occupied by the town of Ipswich in the reign of Henry VI. and have caused the Borough to be regarded also as a 'remembrancer' and custodian for the County at large. The section which best illustrates this conjecture, is the following account, also from the sixth book, of the "taxes paid by every Town in Suffolk to the King's Grace," which deserves to be made accessible to all who are interested in the history of the County. Of such taxes it may be said, that originally the amount payable to the King was uncertain, being levied by fresh assessments at each grant made by the Commons, but in the 8th year of Edward III. new taxations were made, by virtue of the King's Commission, of every township &c. in the kingdom, which quite settled the tax payable in each several case, and for the County of Suffolk, is that here recorded.

Bichard Percybale's Great Domesday Book. 12 **S**enry biti. Liber Sextus.

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Chelesworth ———	•	xxvjs		δq
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hadley ————————————————————————————————————	VIIj <i>li</i>	X8	
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heggessete cū Beketon ————	пijli	пjs	$v_{IIj}d$	
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henworthe	ınj <i>li</i>	пjs	щј d .	
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Elineswell —————		LIIJs	vj <i>d</i> .	
Norton —	njli	V8	mjd.	
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lydgate ————————————————————————————————————	– mj <i>u</i> – vli	٠J٥	xvd
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ———	_	viijs	210
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Aldeburgh cū haswode ————	_	Lvjs	$\mathbf{vnj}d$.
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Sternefeld ————	_	xxxvjs	1j <i>d</i> .
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Glemhm pua cū Stratford —————	_	XLVIIjs	
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Unde p donatur p dicts Rege Blaxhale cū pte de Tunstall		XIIjs	
Blazhale cū pte de Tunstall ————		LIIIjs	xd.
Unde p donatur p dicte Regem ————		vjs	
Snape cū ffreston		LIIIjs.	
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem —		XIIjs	$\mathbf{m}d$.
Cranvfford cū Swystlyng	nj <i>li</i>	XIS	vd.
Cranyfford cū Swystlyng ————————————————————————————————————		viijs.	
Perhm ————————————————————————————————————		XLIIIjs	
Unde p donatur p dicts Rege		X8.	
Wanysden cum pte de Tunstall ———		Lijs	$\mathbf{I}\mathbf{x}d$
Sm hundre & deix	xxvii/i	11130	XIIjd.
om nunui (p uoi	-A-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-		Aliju.
hundre de Wylford			
Alderton —		ыпја.	$\mathbf{vnj}d$
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ————		X8	•
Baudesey —	vij <i>li</i>		xıjd.
Unde p donatur p dicte Regem		xxxiijs	$\mathbf{n}\mathbf{j}d$.
Sutton —	nj <i>li</i>	vjs	vnjd.
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ————		V8.	· 12jan
Boyton cum Capell————		xxxvijs	$\mathbf{v}\mathbf{j}d$.
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ———		VIIjs.	٠,,
Rameshalt cū Bromeswell		XLS.	
Unde p donat' p dicts Regem		V8	
hollysle cū Chatyshm		XLIIjs	mj <i>d</i> .
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ————		XX8	mjw.
Wykhm cu petryste and loudhm —	пj <i>li</i>		пј <i>d</i> .
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem —	11,00	X8.	IIJu.
Boulge debache and Dalanghoo———		XLIIIjs	mjd
melton cū Ufford	mli	IIIjs	mjd.
Unde p donatur p dicte Regem ———	11104	٠.	IIIJu.
Bredfeld taxatur ad x**		VIIjs.	vd
Sm hundre & del	· * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	XVJ8 XIX8	va vjd.
Inde xma	TA A III CO	XVj8	
ALIGO 4 .		¥√J°	V Ch.
hundre de lose			
hacheston —		XLVjs.	
letherynghm cū Chasfeld ————	njli	Щį́в	vjd.
Unde p donatur p dicte Rege ————	•	XIjs	•
Eston cu Ketelbregh ————		цjs	vijd
Unde p donatur p dicte Regem		vjs.	•
Unde de x de bonis Augusto waleys ——		X8	vijd.
Cretynghm cu Brandeston and Monewedene	4	xjs	viijd.
Unde p donatur p dicts Rege-		VIIjs	•
Aysshe ———		XLIS	
Rendeleshm——————	цjh	VIIjs	νцј <i>d</i> .
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ————	•	X8	•

•			
Sohm cū Kenton ————	nj <i>li</i>	vijs	
Unde p donatur p dicto Regē	•	XIjs	
fframlynghm ——————	11j <i>li</i>	XIIjs	ınjd .
Unde p donatur p dicts Regē ————	•	X8.	•
Eyke ————		XLVjs	vnj <i>d</i> .
Unde p donatur p dicts Regē		XXS	•
hoo dalanghoo & Wodbregg —	шj <i>li</i>	XX8	$\mathbf{z}d$
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ————	•	XIjs	
Marlesford cū pte de Butle		XLVIjs	•
Unde p donatur p dicts Rege -		x.s	$\mathbf{vj}d$.
Unde p donatur p dicts Regē ————————————————————————————————————	xxxvli	XIIIjs	vijd
hundre de Carleford.			
Wytleshm ————	mi <i>li</i>	Vijs	mj <i>d</i> .
Ryssehmere cū Alesborne ————	3	XLIIIjs	$\mathbf{I}\mathbf{x}d$
Unde p donatur p dicts Rege -		XVIIjs	xd ob
Playford cū Brightwell ————		LVIjs.	
Unde p donatur p dicts Regē		X8.	
Todynhm cū Culpho —	пj <i>li</i>		
Unde p donatur p dicts Rege	5.1	IX8	
Grondesburgh cū burgh	nj <i>li</i>		a
Unde p donatur p dicts Regē	- 3	I.8	•
Unde p donatur p dicto Regē Belynge magna & pua	шj <i>li</i>	vjs	
Unde p donatur p dicts Rege	•	I.S	
hakeston —		LVjs	
Unde p donatur p dicts Regē		XIjs.	•
Monton	ınj <i>li</i>		
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ———	•	xiij <i>s</i>	mjd.
Martleshm ——————		LVIIjs.	•
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem		IS.	
ffoxhole cū Kesgraue ————————————————————————————————————		XXXjs	$\mathbf{vj}d$.
Unde p donatur p dicts Regē ————		xijs	•
Otleigh ——————	mjli	•	$\mathbf{z}d.$
Sm hundre p doi	xxxvli	Пjs	v d ob
hundre de Coleneyse	•		
Tremley and Tremley cum Alteston	vijli	vjs	xd.
Unde p donat' p dicts Regem ———————————————————————————————————		xxxiijs.	щjd.
Naketon leuyngton & Stratton -	nj <i>li</i>	XIIjs.	
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ———	•	xiij	mj d .
Kyrketon ffaltenhm Bucleshm & Olmeslee	vijli	vjs.	•
Unde p donatur p dicte Regem ————	•	XLs	
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ———————————————————————————————————	vj <i>li</i>	щјв	viij <i>d</i> .
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem ————	•	xxxiijs	• •
Unde p donatur p dicte Regem ———————————————————————————————————	кхиціві	X.s	$\mathbf{vj}d$.

hundre de Thredlyng

Assheffeld cum Thorp ———			XLVjs	піј d .
Unde p donatur p dicts Regem			vjs	$v_{IIj}d$
fframesden cum Pethaugh ———			XLIIjs	иіј d .
Debynhm cum Wyston ———		— <i>▼li</i>	x.s	rj <i>d</i> .
Unde p donatur p dicte Regem -			XIIS	$\mathbf{ij}d.$
Sm hundre p dei		x <i>li</i>		xd
Sm to libtate	J	∮iij ^{xx} x∟ <i>li</i>		ıxd ob
Scē Etheldrede	ſ	4 IIJ ALICE	10	124 00

I am not acquainted with a perfect book of taxation belonging to any one county of so early a date as the foregoing. In the Chetham Library at Manchester, there is a complete list of taxes for the County of Lancaster, but this goes no further back than the middle of the 17th Century.

It may reasonably be supposed that the principle which guided our ancestors in the making of this early assessment, was akin to that which we now term 'rateable value.' We find at a later period (4 Henry VIII. A.D. 1513) that, for the "raysing of a whole taxe granted to the King," the different parishes in the Town of Ipswich were assessed as follows:—

St. Mary le Tower	$\pounds 5$	4	0	St. Mary Elms £2 18	0
St. Margaret	5	11	0	St. Lawrence 5 5	6
St. Clement	4	9	8	St. Mary at the Quay 4 9	4
St. Nicholas	2	4	0	St. Peter 4 6	4
St. Stephen	2	4	8	St. Matthew 4 3	0
•		St.	Helen	13s. 4d.	

the total sum of which is a few shillings in excess of the actual sum at which the Burgesses of the Town were assessed in the Taxation of Henry vi. For the levying of this later Ipswich tax, two Taxers and two Collectors were nominated for each parish.

The Suffolk Taxation list gives as good an idea of the position held by the several parishes and townships in the early part of the 15th Century as could well be desired. It is interesting to note the change that has passed over many of these places since the time when

the assessment was made. To give a solitary instance, drawn almost at random from the Hundred of Lothingland: the villages of Belton and Corton are each taxed at only a few shillings less than the adjacent town of Lowestoft, which itself could then have been little more than a fishing village.

The names of places as formerly written, additions made thereto, and the mention of places no longer to be found recorded in lists of Suffolk parishes, etc., are in

many cases well worth notice.

A tax imposed on every parish in the Kingdom, in the year 1370, was at a uniform rate, the larger in each

Hundred being commanded to help the smaller.

This account of the Taxes payable by the county of Suffolk, is followed by a curious heraldic description of the arms borne by divers Sovereigns, with the designation of the several supporters placed at the head of each. (temp. Henry vi.) It was possibly deemed absolutely necessary that an important maritime town like Ipswich should possess an authoritative document of this kind, but it is a reasonable supposition that it was not very frequently referred to.

"THE MOST CRISTEN KYNG OF FFRAUNCE" his grace berith Assure thre flowre delice golde Garuntyñ

THE MOSTE EXCELLENT & MOST REDOUBTED KYNG OF ENGLOND my most Soffraigne lorde berith quartly Asure iij. ffloure delice golde and he berith Gowlys thre lypardys! passaunts golde enarmed in asure.

THE KYNG OF SPAYNE. his noble grace berith quartly Gowlys. A castell golde And he berith Syluer A lyon Salijaunt Sable.

TYGYR

THE KYNG OF POYLE.§ he berith gowlys departed wt. a Crosse golde.

§ Poland.

^{*} This was the ordinary title of the Kings of France: it is ancient, but of uncertain

origin.

† This title is not older than the latter part of the 14th Century.

‡ Leos-pardes, not leopards. Until late in the 14th Century, the lions of the Royal Shield of England were known as leopards. It was an heraldic title only, denoting the precise attitude of the lion, walking and looking about him after the manner

An Egle Syluer And he berith gowlys a Kyng coraious syttyng crownyd and armyd in gold sittyng uppon a cowrser off syluer Rynnyng empailed in ûto.

BOUAS:

THE KYNG OF AROGOWEN* he berith golde iiij palys gowlis.

DAMA:

THE KYNG OF DENMARKE he berith quarterly golde hartele gowlys iij. lypardes passaunte assure. And he berith gowlys a lyon of golde seaunt in a cheire of Syluer wepenyd wt the same.

HERTE.

THE KYNG OF HOUGARY. he berith quarterly asure thre Sunnys golde and he berith gowlys A sylver ffecy of vj:

IBEX

THE KYNG OF CYPRESSE he berith quarterly sylu and asure ffecy a lyon Rampaunt gowlys And he berith syluer a crosse potancy golde betwe iiij of the same.

GEROSYLL.

THE KYNG OF BEAMS. † he berith gowlysalyone. Rampaunt Rewardyng force syluer crowned and armyd in golde.

GENEROWNYS.

THE KYNG OF NAPLYS he berith quarterly veert. ij. lyons passaunte golde. And he berith gowlys a Crosse matale golde

PARAUNDYR

THE KYNG OF CECYLE. he bereth golde iij. pales. gowles. ij. voydures poynted syluer w' ij. Eglys displayed Cubyll membrye with gowlys.

GRYFFOWN.

THE KYNG OF GRYCE. he berith a crosse fuse Crosse gowlys in a Champe of golde upon a felde of verte.

PANTER

The Kyng of naverne. ‡ he berith quarterly assure. iij flowre delyoe golde w' a bende gobony gowlys & syluer And he berith gowlys A sharbokyll gold.

BRADRIX.

THE KYNG OF PORTYUGALE. he berith v. skochones eneroys asure tiele psaut w a bordure gowlys castell golde.

* Arragon, the eastern part of Spain

† Bohemia

‡ Navarre.



UNYCORNE.

THE KYNGE OF SKOTTYS. he berith golde a lyon Rampaunt w' in a doble trussure count fforete gowlys

OLYFAUNT."

There is every reason to suppose that this description as it stands is unique: it is certainly of great interest.

The list of Knights' Fees of the Honors of Lancaster and Leicester, lying within the County of Suffolk, also finds a place in the Little Domesday Book.* Several such lists, and especially those annexed to the Duchies of Lancaster and Leicester, from various counties, are to be found in many of our public libraries, but Sims, who gives a lengthy account of these Knights' Fees in his "Manual," makes no mention of those old hereditary revenues here given, and which may be supposed to be generally unknown to students.

"Hec sunt feoda militum de honoribus lanecastr' et leycest' in Comutat' Suff:

```
j. feod militis
In villa de Lund cum membris
In villa de Ilkttleshale cū membris
                                                ij. feod & dī milit
                                               j. feod militis
In villa de Mendhm cu membris
                                               j. feod militis
In villa de Wytynhm cū membris
                                               j. feod militis
In villa de Akenhm cu membris
In villa de Hasketon clopton. &
                                               j. feod militis
     Wodebregge cū membris
                                               j. feod militis
In villa de Ikene cū membris
                                               j. feod & di militis
In villa de Oteleye cū membris
                                                Dī feod militis
In villa de Cleydone cū membre
In villa de Culfo cum membre -
                                                Di feod militis
In halghetre & Alnesburne cu membre tres ptes viiis feod
                                                Dī feod militis
In lellesseye cū membris
In Sprouton cu membris
                                                iij feod militis
In Wylasham cū membris
                                               j feod militis
```

* Add MS 25,012 fol. 47 b. Br: Mus.

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j feod militis
In Offtone cū membris
                                               grt feod militis
In pua Blakenhm cū membris
                                               j feod militis
In Ryseby cū membris
In ffyneberghe cū membris
                                               ii feod militis
                                               j feod militis
Buxhale cum membris
In Thorp moriens cū membre
                                               ij feod militis
                                               Dī feod militis
In prestone cū membre
                                               Dī feod militis
In Waldingfelde cu membre
                                               Dī feod militis
In Boxtede cum membre
                                               j feod militis
In Thurstanton cu membe
                                               ij feod militis
In Baudreseye cü membre
In veteri Newton cū membre
                                         vij ps viiis feod milits
                                         xx ps je feod militis
In Stonhm Count cū memb?
                                               viij feod militis
In leyhm cum membr
                               xxviij Dī & xxvij ptes"
              ffeod militū
```

In the brief, but singular "Memorandum" of ancient lineal measurements which follows, several points are touched, likely to enlighten us somewhat with regard to a matter which in the state of our present knowledge, is one of the greatest doubt and obscurity, viz., the true value and meaning of the terms anciently employed in such measurements.

"Memorando that iiij. Barly cornys takyō in the myddys of the yere (ear) makith an unche And xij. unches makith a ffoote iij. foote makith a yerd & xvj. ffoote and a halfe makith a perche & iiij. perches in brede and xi in leynght makith an Akir Lond & iiij acres maketh a yerd of Lond And v yerds makyth a hyde of Londe & viij hydes of Londe & viij hydes of londe makith an Knyght's ffee."

We are at once brought face to face with the familiar fact that the standard of measurement, like that of weight, had its origin in the grain of corn, which was to be "taken in the myddys of the ear." It will be noticed that the number of grains, which according to this note

were necessary to complete an inch, were four, whereas it is now but three. The table proceeds pretty much according to our recognised rule as far as the statement that "iiij perches in brede & xL in length makith an aker," then we meet with a "yerd," a "hide," and a "Knights' fee," concerning which there seem to have been no general agreement as to limit or extent. The old Virgate or yerd (Sax: a certain extent of land) is mostly regarded as an indefinite term containing somewhere from 25 to 40 acres, and as a necessary consequence the terms that follow are equally vague. The above "memorandum" which cannot have been framed later than the 15th Century, and probably much earlier, seems to settle the measurements with a certainty which is now scarcely recognised. The "yerd" which is usually accounted only the fourth part of a hide, is here reckoned a fifth. The "hide" or "caracute," = 120 acres, is a very ancient measurement, having been employed by the Romans: this was apparently the unit of assessment. It doubtless had its origin in the quantity of land that could be enclosed within an Ox hide, when cut into slips and carried round the land so enclosed, although this application of the term is sometimes disputed. It is sometimes called a "plough land" = caracute, owing to the quantity of land being just as much as one plough was capable of cultivating. There is considerable difference of opinion respecting what is known as "a Knights' Fee." In the old feudal system, every holder of an extent of land called "a knight's fee," was obliged at the instigation either of the king or a superior to whom he owed service, to render according to his tenure, as occasion, and the will of his lord required. The land comprised in such a "fee" was doubtless amply sufficient to allow of a proper discharge of the knightly office, although it is difficult to say precisely what it represented. The general impression seems to be against fixing any certain amount, and it is roughly estimated at from 100 to 500 acres of arable land, but then of course the exact limit to an acre is, as

we have seen, somewhat doubtful. It may be, that the knights' fee varied in different districts, according to the nature of the soil and other considerations, but this is not very likely; at all events eight hides, (whatever they may have contained) according to the memorandum referred to, went to a Knights' fee. It appears extremely probable that the entry was made in the Ipswich Town Books for the very purpose of settling the difficulties occasioned by so arbitrary an arrangement, but I have not met with a single author acquainted with such a table.

The last portion of this book is occupied by a Rhyming Chronicle of the Kings of England, from William I. to Henry VI., which is of special interest. Little more than a mere surmise led me some time ago to ascribe the authorship of these verses to John Lydgate, the Monk-Poet of Bury Saint Edmunds, and there is every reason to regard this as a probable conjecture. Besides it appears that the lines occur in several old MSS, with some slight variations and additions, and are commonly attributed to Lydgate. There is a copy among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum (2251. f. 2. b.) with an additional stanza relating to the reign of Edward IV. There is one in the handwriting of Shirley, the transcriber of Chaucer, in the Ashmolean Library (No. 59) at Oxford, and written probably about the year 1456, with additions by other hands. The lines were printed in 1530 by Wynkyn de Worde, with additions to the reign of Henry VIII. The verses also occur in a 15th Century MS. known as the "Historical Collections of a London Citizen," fol. 110-112, with this heading, "Cronycles of alle Kyngys of Englonde after the Conqueste as of thyr namys ande where that they bene i-byryede." This was printed by the Camden Society in 1876, and the additional stanza is inserted from the Harleian MS. There are several variations, the most important of which I have indicated in foot notes to the Ipswich Great Domesday text, which stands altogether unencumbered with notes.

"Willim the Conqueror

This mighty Willm of Normandy
As Bokys olde makith mencon
Be iuste tytle & by his Chevalry
made Kyng by conquest of brutesalbion*
putte ought harald and toke possesyon
Bare his Crowne full xxj. yere
Buryd at Cane thus seithe the cronyclere

Willms Ruffus

Next in ordrelye Successyon
Willim Ruffus his sone crownyd kynge
whiche to godwarde had non deuocion
Distroyed Chirches of new & old byldynge
To make a fforest plesaunt for huntynge
xiij yere bare his Crowne in dede
Buryed at Wynchestyr ye may rede.

Henricus Primus

his Brother next callid Harry the ffyrst was at london crownyd as I fynde whos Brother Robard Duke of Normandy gav Warre† the cronycle makith mynde Reconsiled all ranker sett behynde ffull xxxj‡ yere be record of wrytynge he Reignyd And buried att Redyng.

Stephanus.

his brother§ Stevyn when Herry the first was dede Toward yngland gaue Crosse his sayle the Archebysshoppe dyd sett up on his hede A Rich Crowne beyng of councelle.

XIX. yers w¹ sorowe and grett travayle bare his crowne & nevyr had Rest

And at ffeusham lyeth buried in a Chest

* in margin, id est Englonde

† Ganne hym werry

‡xxxIIj § cosyn

Henricus 119

Henry the II^{de} son of the Impasse.

was crownyd next a full manly knyght

As books of olde pleynly dothe expresse
this seid henry by ffroward force and myght.*

yerys xxxv regnyd as it is made of mynd

Att ffount Everard lyeth buried As I ffynd.

Ricardus pmus

Richard his son by Successyon.

ffirst of that name stronge hardy & notabyll
was crownyd Kynge callid cure de lyon.

w's arasyns heds servyd at his Tabyll
Slayne at Calyas by dethe lamentabyll
the space regnyd fully x† yere
his harte buried at Roone und' the hie awter.

Iohannes

Nexte Kyng Richard regnyd his brother John after sone entery in to ffraunce.
lost all Aungee & Normandy A non
This Lond enterdicted by his; gounannee.
And as it is putt in remembraunce
aviij yere Kynge of Region
lyeth at worsettyr deyde of poyson.

Henricus iij

Herry the iij^{de} Son of ix yere Age
was at Glowcett^r crownyd as I rede
longe warre he had w^t his baronage
Gretly delicted in Almesse dede
lvj^{te} yere he regnyd here in dede
buried at Westmyster by recorde of writyng
the day of Seynt Edmnde martir & kyng.||

† IX

^{*} This stanza in the Ipswich Domesday MS. has but six lines. In the MS. copy from which the Camden Society printed, the fifth line stands as 'Slowe Thomas (Bekett is interlined here in a later hand) for Hooly Chyrche ryght.' The omission from this later MS. is easily understood.

[‡] mys § this regyon
|| Seynt Edwardi martir mayde & Kyng.

Edwardus pmus

Edward the first w' his shanks longe Was aftir crownyd that was a good knyght. Wanne Skotlande mager the Skotts stronge And all Walys in the dispyte of ther myght. duryng his liff mayntenyd trew & Right xxxv yere he was here Kyng. lyeth at Westmynster this is no leasyng.

Edwardus ije

Edwarde his son callid Carnervañ succedyng aftyr to make his Alyaunce As the Cronycle well reherse cañ Weddyd the doughter of Kyng of ffraunce Unto Thoms of lancastar he toke venisaunce xix yeres held here Regaly Buried at Glowcettr books speciffye.

Edwardus iii?

Edwarde the iij^{de} borne at Wyndsoore
Whiche in Knyghthood had so great a pec
Enherytour of ffrance wouten moore
bare in his armys quarto iij fflowre delyce*
And gate Calice hi his prudent device
Regnyd in Inglond lj† yere
lyeth at Westmynster thus saieth the cronycler

Ricus ij9

The son of pnce Edward Richard the ijde
In whos tyme was peaces & great plente.
Weddyd quene Anne of Bowan; as it is ffounde
Isbell after of ffrance who lyfte to se.
xxij. yere he reynyd here pde
at Langley buried ffirst so stond the case
After to Westmyster his body caried was.

* quarto the fflowre delyce † lij ‡ dele of Bowan § Isbell after of ffrance he lystede to see

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Henricus iiij,

Henry the iiij^{te} next crowned in certeyn A ffamows knyght of grete cemlynesse* ffrom his exile when he come home ageyn w^t werre travayled and w^t greate sekenesse xiiij yers he reigned in sothnesse lyeth att cawntabury in that holy place god of his marcy do his sowle grace.

Henricus quitus.

The† fyrst henry of knyghthode lodsterre Wyse‡ manly pleynly to detmyne. ffortunate pvyd in pease & in werre grettly exspert in marcy full disciplyne able to stonde amonge the worthyes is.§ Reigned x yers who that lyst to regarde|| lyeth at Westmynster by Seynt Edwarde.¶

Henricus Sextus

Henry the Syxte brought forth in** vertu
by Iust tytle and by Inheritannee.
provydyd be forne by the grace of Ihū††
To be crownyd yn Inglond & in ffrannee.‡‡
Reignyned xxxix yere & God gaffe hym sufficiancess
of vtuos lyffe & chose hym for his Knyght
At Wyndesore buried And myracles doth by Goddys myght.

The abrupt ending of the verses in this Ipswich MS. is significant, and may probably throw some light upon the time of Lydgate's death, which has long been a disputed point. Warton, (History of English Poetry, Sec.

^{*} semble*se † v ‡ wyse and manly
\$ spousyde the doughter of Fraunce, Katerynne
who lyste to have rewarde
* in alle vertu
†† provydyd a forne by the grace of Ihu Chryste

the provydyd a forne by the grace of Ihu Chryste
To were ij crownys in Englonde and in Fraunce
To whom God hath gevyn souerayne suffycyaunce
Ul Long he hathe rejoysed both by day and nyght.

xxi, Note) thinks that the stanza relating to Edward IV. in the Harleian copy, could scarcely have been written by Lydgate, and gives substantial reasons for his opinion. The fifteenth and last stanza relating to Henry VI., as given in the MSS. of the 'London Citizen,' and that of the Ipswich Domesday volume, differ in this important particular, that, while the one assumes the King to be living, the other distinctly alludes to his burial. It is not unlikely that both versions are correct, and each the work of Lydgate, written at two different periods. It is well to point out the discrepancy which exists between the title as given in the former, and the concluding stanza, which omits the place of burial. I will briefly state my reasons for the conclusion at which I have arrived. Ipswich Domesday copy, as it now exists in the volume which I have already described, was certainly inscribed there in A.D. 1520, and most likely, as was the case with much other matter forming the same volume, copied from an older MS., that had for some time been deposited among the Town Archives, perhaps even from the time when it was originally written. Especially considering the proximity of the Abbey where Lydgate was an inmate, to the Town of Ipswich, there is strong probability for supposing that this epitomized English history, mellowed into verse, would early find its way into safe custody at Ipswich, and escape receiving additional stanzas of the subsequent reigns of Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III, and Henry VII. Lydgate's memory and genius, if there were no other cause likely to operate in favour of the poem retaining its original features, would probably be sufficient to deter men in the attempt to make any additions.

The remaining portions of this Sixth book are certainly of the time of Henry VI. I am strongly of opinion that the whole of the contents are of the same period, and that the heading 'Edwardus quartus' following Stanza xv, marks the precise time when the work came forth (not necessarily for the first time) from Lydgate's

pen, viz., soon after the accession of Edward IV. (cir. 1462), which probably marks the time of Lydgate's decease. He certainly lived until the end of the reign of Henry VI., and nothing is more likely, that in closing this Sovereign's reign, the writer should add the name of the King's successor, who had but lately ascended the throne. Such I am inclined to think is a true account of the authenticity of these verses, drawn from inferences which I cannot but regard as fair and reasonable.

It only now remains to give the stanza which appears in the Harleian copy; it has a very different 'ring' about it to the preceding verses, ascribed to Lydgate, and to my mind plainly points to an author other than he.

"Edwardus Quartus.

Comforth all thirsty and drynke with gladness, Rejoyse with myrth though ye have not to spende, The tyme is come to avoyden your distres. Edward the Fourth the old wronges to amend, Is wele disposed in will; and to defend His lond and peple indede with kynne and myght Goode lyf and longe, I pray to God hym send And that Seynt George be with hym in his hyght."

The object of placing in a collection of this description such apparently extraneous matters as these which occupy the Sixth book, is not quite clear, although certainly they would, as I have shewn, have their use. It may have been out of mere caprice, or for want of a more suitable repository, that they are here entered; certainly it has been the means of preserving to us much interesting matter, which may prove exceedingly useful from other than an antiquarian standpoint, and perchance, when its true value is understood, we shall confess that we can ill afford to spare.

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